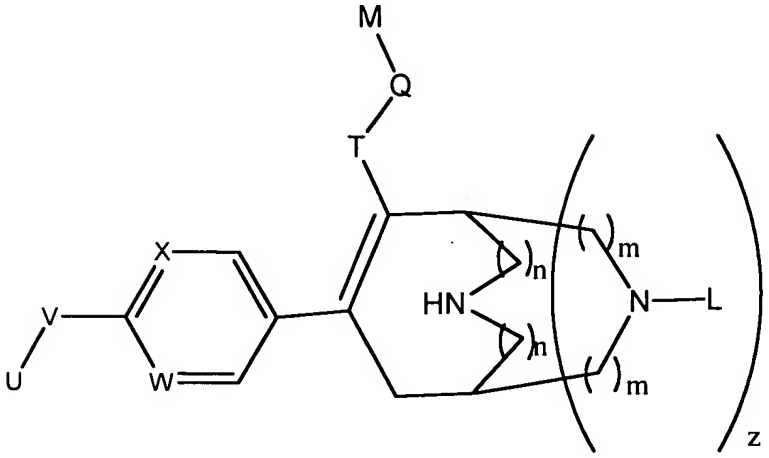
Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend Claims 1-12 and 14 as set forth below. Please cancel claim 13. Please add new claims 15-18. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) Compounds of the general formula **I**



Formula **I**

wherein

X and W represent independently a nitrogen atom or a -CH- group;

V represents $-(CH_2)_r-$; $-A-(CH_2)_s-$; $-CH_2-A-(CH_2)_t-$; $-(CH_2)_s-A-$; $-(CH_2)_2-A-(CH_2)_u-$; $-A-(CH_2)_v-B-$; $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-A-CH_2-$; $-A-CH_2-CH_2-B-CH_2-$; $-CH_2-A-CH_2-CH_2-B-$; $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-A-CH_2-CH_2-$; $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-A-CH_2-$; $-A-CH_2-CH_2-B-CH_2-CH_2-$; $-CH_2-A-CH_2-CH_2-B-CH_2-$; $-CH_2-A-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-B-$; or $-CH_2-CH_2-A-CH_2-CH_2-B-$;

A and B independently represent -O-; -S-; -SO-; $-SO_2-$;

U represents aryl; heteroaryl;

T represents $-CONR^1-$; $-(CH_2)_pOCO-$; $-(CH_2)_pN(R^1)CO-$; $-(CH_2)_pN(R^1)SO_2-$; or

-COO-;

Q represents lower alkylene; lower alkenylene;

M represents aryl-$O(CH_2)_vR^5$; heteroaryl-$O(CH_2)_vR^5$; aryl-$O(CH_2)_2O(CH_2)_wR^5$; heteroaryl-$(CH_2)_2O(CH_2)_wR^5$;

L represents -R^3; -COR^3; -$COOR^3$; -$CONR^2R^3$; -SO_2R^3; -$SO_2NR^2R^3$;

-$COCH(Aryl)_2$;

R^1 represents hydrogen; lower alkyl; lower alkenyl; lower alkinyl; cycloalkyl; aryl; cycloalkyl - lower alkyl;

R^2 and $R^{2'}$ independently represent hydrogen; lower alkyl; lower alkenyl; cycloalkyl; cycloalkyl - lower alkyl;

R^3 represents hydrogen; lower alkyl; lower alkenyl; cycloalkyl; aryl; heteroaryl; heterocyclyl; cycloalkyl - lower alkyl; aryl - lower alkyl; heteroaryl - lower alkyl; heterocyclyl - lower alkyl; aryloxy - lower alkyl; heteroaryloxy - lower alkyl, whereby these groups may be unsubstituted or mono-, di- or trisubstituted with hydroxy, -$OCOR^2$, -$COOR^2$, lower alkoxy, cyano, -$CONR^2R^{2'}$, CO-morpholin-4-yl, CO-((4-loweralkyl)piperazin-1-yl), -$NH(NH)NH_2$, -$NR^4R^{4'}$ or lower alkyl, with the proviso that a carbon atom is attached at the most to one heteroatom in case this carbon atom is sp3-hybridized;

R^4 and $R^{4'}$ independently represents hydrogen; lower alkyl; cycloalkyl; cycloalkyl - lower alkyl; hydroxy - lower alkyl; -$COOR^2$; -$CONH_2$;

R^5 represents –OH, -$OCOR^2$, -$COOR^2$, -$NR^2R^{2'}$, -$OCONR^2R^{2'}$, -$NCONR^2R^{2'}$, cyano, -$CONR^2R^{2'}$, SO_3H, -$SONR^2R^{2'}$, -CO-morpholin-4-yl, -CO-((4-loweralkyl)piperazin-1-yl), -

$NH(NH)NH_2$, $-NR^4R^{4'}$, with the proviso that a carbon atom is attached at the most to one heteroatom in case this carbon atom is sp3-hybridized;

m and n represent the integer 0 or 1, with the proviso that in case m represents the integer 1, n is the integer 0, and in case n represents the integer 1, m is the integer 0;

p is the integer 1, 2, 3 or 4;

r is the integer 3, 4, 5, or 6;

s is the integer 2, 3, 4, or 5;

t is the integer 1, 2, 3, or 4;

u is the integer 1, 2, or 3;

v is the integer 2, 3, or 4;

w is the integer 1 or 2;

z is the integer 0 or 1; if z represents 0, n represents 0;

~~and~~ in any form, including optically pure enantiomers, mixtures of enantiomers such as racemates, diastereomers, mixtures of diastereomers, diastereomeric racemates, mixtures of diastereomeric racemates, and the meso-form; as well as free or pharmaceutically acceptable salts, solvent complexes and morphological forms.

2. (currently amended) Compounds of general formula **I** according to claim 1 wherein X, W, V, U, T, Q, L, and M are as defined in general formula **I** and

z is 1

n is 0

m is 1.

3. (currently amended) Compounds of general formula **I** according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 2~~ wherein X, W, V, U, T, Q, M, m, and n are as defined in general formula **I** and

z is 1

L represents $-COR^{3''}$; $-COOR^{3''}$; $-CONR^{2''}R^{3''}$;

$R^{2''}$ and $R^{3''}$ represent independently lower alkyl; lower cycloalkyl - lower alkyl, which lower alkyl and lower cycloalkyl-lower alkyl are undubstituted or mono-substituted with halogen, -CN, -OH, $-OCOCH_3$, $-CONH_2$,-COOH, or $-NH_2$, with the proviso that a carbon atom is attached at the most to one heteroatom in case this carbon atom is sp3-hybridized.

4. (currently amended) Compounds of general formula **I** according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 3~~ wherein X, W, V, U, L, m, n and z are as defined in general formula **I** and

T represents $-CONR^1-$;

Q represents methylene;

M represents aryl-$O(CH_2)_vR^5$; heteroaryl-$O(CH_2)_vR^5$; aryl-$O(CH_2)_2O(CH_2)_wR^5$; heteroaryl-$(CH_2)_2O(CH_2)_wR^5$.

5. (currently amended) Compounds of general formula **I** according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 4~~ wherein X, W, U, L, T, Q, M, m, n, and z are as defined in general formula **I** and

V represents $-CH_2CH_2O-$; $-CH_2CH_2CH_2O-$; $-OCH_2CH_2O-$; $-O-CH_2-CH_2-$;

$-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$.

6. (currently amended) Compounds of general formula **I** according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 5~~ wherein V, U, T, Q, M, L, m, n, and z are as defined in general formula **I** and

X and W represent a -CH- group.

7. (currently amended) Compounds of general formula **I** according ~~to any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 6~~ wherein X, W, V, Q, T, M, L, m, n, and z are as defined in general formula **I** and

U is a mono-, di-, or trisubstituted phenyl whereby the substituents are halogen; lower alkyl or lower alkoxy.

8. (currently amended) Compounds of formula I according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 7~~ wherein

U represents a mono-, di-, or tri- substituted phenyl ring independently substituted with halogen or C1-C4 alkyl;

V represents $-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$; $-O-CH_2-CH_2-O-$; $-O-CH_2-CH_2-$; $-CH_2-CH_2-O-$; $-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-$; $-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-O-$;

X and W represent a –CH- group;

T represents $-CONR^1-$, wherein R^1 is a cycloalkyl group;

Q represents $-CH_2-$;

M represents a substituted pyridyl-$O(CH_2)_vR^5$ group substituted with C1-C4 alkyl, wherein R^5 is hydroxyl; $-COOR_2$, wherein R^2 is hydrogen or C1-C4 alkyl; or R^5 is $-CONR^2R^{2'}$, wherein R^2 and $R^{2'}$ are hydrogen or C1-C4 alkyl and $_v$ is the integer 2 or 3;

L represents hydrogen;

n is the integer 0;

z is the integer 1; and

m is the integer 1.

9. (currently amended) Compounds of formula I according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 8~~ wherein

U represents a tri-substituted phenyl ring substituted independently with halogen or a phenyl ring substituted in 2- and 6- position with chloro and in 4-position with a methyl group;

V represents $-O-CH_2-CH_2-CH_2-$; $-O-CH_2-CH_2-O-$;

X and W represent a –CH- group;

T represents $-CONR^1-$, wherein R^1 is a cyclopropyl group;

Q represents $-CH_2-$;

M represents a pyridinyl-$O(CH_2)_vR^5$ group, whereby the pyridinyl ring is substituted with a methyl group, wherein R^5 represents hydroxyl; and $_v$ is the integer 2 or 3;

L represents hydrogen;

n is the integer 0;

z is the integer 1; and

m is the integer 1.

10. (currently amended) The compounds according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~–9~~ selected from the group consisting of

(rac.)-(*1R**, *5S**)-7-{4-[3-(2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenoxy)propyl]phenyl}-3,9-diazabicyclo[3.3.1]non-6-ene-6-carboxylic acid cyclopropyl-[2-(3-hydroxy-propoxy)-3-methylpyridin-4-ylmethyl]amide;

(rac.)-(*1R**, *5S**)-7-{4-[2-(2,6-dichloro-4-methylphenoxy)ethoxy]phenyl}-3,9-diazabicyclo[3.3.1]non-6-ene-6-carboxylic acid cyclopropyl-[2-(3-hydroxy-propoxy)-3-methylpyridin-4-ylmethyl]amide;

(rac.)-(*1R**, *5S**)-7-{4-[3-(2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenoxy)propyl]phenyl}-3,9-diazabicyclo[3.3.1]non-6-ene-6-carboxylic acid cyclopropyl-[2-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-3-methylpyridin-4-ylmethyl]amide;

(rac.)-(*1R**, *5S**)-7-{4-[2-(2,6-dichloro-4-methylphenoxy)ethoxy]phenyl}-3,9-diazabicyclo[3.3.1]non-6-ene-6-carboxylic acid cyclopropyl-[2-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-3-methylpyridin-4-ylmethyl]amide.

11. (currently amended) Pharmaceutical compositions ~~containing~~ comprising a compound of ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 in combination or association with a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent or carrier. ~~1 to 10 and usual carrier materials and adjuvants for the treatment or prophylaxis of disorders which are associated with a dysregulation of the renin-angiotensin system (RAS), comprising cardiovascular and renal diseases hypertension, congestive heart failure, pulmonary hypertension, cardiac insufficiency, renal insufficiency, renal or myocardial ischemia, atherosclerosis, renal failure, erectile dysfunction, glomerulonephritis, renal colic, glaucoma, diabetic complications, complications after vascular or cardiac surgery, restenosis, complications of treatment with immunosuppressive agents after organ transplantation, and other diseases known to be related to the RAS.~~

12. (currently amended) A method for the treatment or prophylaxis of diseases which are related to the RAS comprising hypertension, congestive heart failure, pulmonary hypertension, cardiac insufficiency, renal insufficiency, renal or myocardial ischemia, atherosclerosis, renal failure, erectile dysfunction, glomerulonephritis, renal colic, glaucoma, diabetic complications, complications after vascular or cardiac surgery, restenosis, complications of treatment with immunosuppressive agents after organ transplantation, and other diseases which are related to the RAS, which method comprises administrating an effective amount of a compound according to ~~any one of claims~~ claim 1 ~~to 10~~ to a human being or animal.

13. (cancelled)

14. (currently amended) ~~The use of one or more compounds of any one of claims 1 to 8 in combination with other~~ The method according to claim 12 further comprising administering an effective amount of a pharmacologically active compounds ~~comprising~~ selected from ACE inhibitors, angiotensin II receptor antagonists, endothelin receptor antagonists, vasodilators, calcium antagonists, potassium activators, diuretics, sympatholitics, beta-adrenergic antagonists, alpha-adrenergic antagonists~~, for the treatment of disorders as set forth in any one of claims 9 to 13~~.

15. (new) A compound according to claim 1 which is *(rac.)*-(*1R**, *5S**)-7-{4-[3-(2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenoxy)propyl]phenyl}-3,9-diazabicyclo[3.3.1]non-6-ene-6-carboxylic acid cyclopropyl-[2-(3-hydroxy-propoxy)-3-methylpyridin-4-ylmethyl]amide, or an optically pure enantiomer thereof, in free or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

16. (new) A compound according to claim 1 which is *(rac.)*-(*1R**, *5S**)-7-{4-[2-(2,6-dichloro-4-methylphenoxy)ethoxy]phenyl}-3,9-diazabicyclo[3.3.1]non-6-ene-6-carboxylic acid cyclopropyl-[2-(3-hydroxy-propoxy)-3-methylpyridin-4-ylmethyl]amide or an optically pure enantiomer thereof, in free or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

17. (new) A compound according to claim 1 which is *(rac.)*-(*1R**, *5S**)-7-{4-[3-(2-chloro-3,6-difluorophenoxy)propyl]phenyl}-3,9-diazabicyclo[3.3.1]non-6-ene-6-carboxylic acid cyclopropyl-[2-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-3-methylpyridin-4-ylmethyl]amide or an optically pure enantiomer thereof, in free or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.

18. (new) A compound according to claim 1 which is *(rac.)*-(*1R**, *5S**)-7-{4-[2-(2,6-dichloro-4-methylphenoxy)ethoxy]phenyl}-3,9-diazabicyclo[3.3.1]non-6-ene-6-carboxylic acid cyclopropyl-[2-(2-hydroxy-ethoxy)-3-methylpyridin-4-ylmethyl]amide or an optically pure enantiomer thereof, in free or pharmaceutically acceptable salt form.